

March 16, 1945

Dear Delbrück:

I wonder whether you are still looking around for possible candidates for the opening in Biology at Vanderbilt. Two people have occurred to me recently and I thought it might be worth while to pass along their names to you for consideration.

The first you may dispose of very quickly, but just on the chance that you may not, here he is: a Chinese man of outstanding ability, -T.T.Chen. I have known Chen well for many years and can vouch for his ability, industry and excellent personal qualities. He has been at Oberlin, Hopkins and U.C.L.A. He is a cytologist and has done all of his work on the Protozoa, especially on their chromosomes. There is little doubt but that he is the top man in the world on chromosome cytology of Protozoa. In skill and accomplishments in this field he would be in the class with Barbara MacClintock in plant chromosome cytology. For the last 10 years, approximately, he has been technically a research assistant to Jennings, but actually he has been a completely independent investigator, merely working on the same material as Jennings. I'd be glad to send you a bibliography of his more important publications, if you are interested. He is about forty years old, perhaps a little more. Because of the racial difficulty, he has had, I believe no teaching position; but I have often heard him lecture and can assure you that he is a first class lecturer. He is a perfectionist in all things, -in his cytological preparations, in his drawings, in his organization and presentation of material both in print and orally. He is also full of enthusiasm and would, I am sure, make a stimulating teacher. Jennings is beginning to feel very anxious about placing Chen before he retires from active work himself, so that I feel quite sure Chen would be glad to accept a reasonably good offer. If you got Chen, you'd have something to be proud of.

The second man is now on the staff at Notre Dame and has had very extensive and varied teaching experience there. This is his only teaching job as he went there immediately after receiving his Ph.D. under Kimball at Hopkins. You could write Just, the head of the Department there, as to how successful he has been in his work at Notre Dame. He was at Hopkins during my last year there and started his graduate work under my direction, so I have some notion of his capacities, at least at that time. He was a very good student and is extremely ambitious in research, has his eye on important problems and is determined to build a name for himself. He is at present getting, I believe, a salary of 3500, but he is so overburdened with teaching that he would be willing to take less, if necessary, in order to have some time free for his research. He has done all his work so far on Euplotes, the same organism that Kimball worked on, and has done very good jobs. Kimball, as you probably know, has definitely abandoned work on Euplotes and the very

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interesting possibilities which he opened up are likely to remain undone, unless Powers gets an opportunity to carry on. Powers is in fact attempting (under very adverse circumstances) to do just that. He wants to push ahead on the mating type hormones and, if possible, connect them up with antigen-antibody reactions. Powers is a man with a very attractive personality and would, I believe, fit in well with your group, particularly as he is by birth a Southerner. If you want further information about him, I'd be glad to expand. You might also write to Kimball and Jennings about him if you care to do so.

Chen is, I believe, still unmarried; Powers has a wife and, I believe, two small children. Powers is about thirty years old, or perhaps a year one way or the other.

With best regards to you and your wife,

Yours,

T.M. Sonneborn

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